

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

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44TH YEAR.....No. 353

AMUSEMENTS TO-NIGHT.

DAILY'S THEATRE—ARABIAN NIGHTS.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE—DAVID GARRECK.
ITALIA THEATRE—DER FREISCHUTZ.
HAYESVILLE THEATRE—THE GALLEY SLAVE.
BROADWAY OPERA HOUSE—STRAIGHTS.
AMERICAN THEATRE—THE MILK VENDOR.
NIBBLE'S GARDEN—HEARTS OF STEEL.
STANDARD THEATRE—PRINCESS TOTO.
WALLACK'S—ESTELLE.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—H. M. S. PINAFORE.
UNION SQUARE THEATRE—FRENCH FLAITS.
ACQUARIUM—UNCLE TOM'S CABIN. Matinee.
ABBEY'S PARK—FUTZ IN ENGLAND.
GERMANIA THEATRE—DER SOHN DER WILDESS.
ACADEMY OF MUSIC—THOMAS' MATINEE.
TONY PASTOR'S THEATRE—VARIETY. Matinee.
THEATRE COMIQUE—MULLIGAN GUARDS' CHRISTMAS.
KOSTER & BIAL'S CONCERT HALL.
SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS—THOMPSON STREET PLATS.
CHICKERING HALL—JOSEPH CONCERT.
AMERICAN INSTITUTE—DAIRY FAIR.

TRIPLE SHEET.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1879.

The probabilities are that the weather in New York and its vicinity today will be cold and fair, followed toward night by increasing cloudiness, and possibly occasional snow showers. To-morrow it will be cold and partly cloudy, with snow.

WALL STREET YESTERDAY.—There was no change in the general situation. The volume of stocks dealt in was about the same, and although the market declined considerably it rallied at the close to about the opening level. Government securities continued firm, while State and railway bonds were in little demand and weak. Money on call ruled at 6 per cent, the highest point touched being 7 and the closing rate 5. Foreign exchange was advanced a fraction.

THE "L" ROAD INVESTIGATION increases in interest.

A WOMAN was yesterday sentenced to be hanged for murder. Fortunately such cases are rare.

LOCKPORT'S GREAT POISONING CASE rests at present by the admission of the alleged criminals to bail.

A REMARKABLE STORY of death by a blow from a meteor will be found in our special despatch from Kansas City.

TALMAGE TRIUMPHS by a two-thirds majority, and his enemies can hereafter get even with him only by preaching better sermons.

REPRESENTATIVE SPRINGER seems to think our army is large enough; but he comes from Illinois, which is not now a border State.

POLICE OFFICERS naturally object to the proposed changes in the management of the force. Some of their arguments appear on another page.

PARSON HAYDEN testified strongly in his own behalf yesterday, and the battle of the doctors, which probably will take place to-day, can hardly hurt him.

THREE PENNSYLVANIANS walked together on a railroad track yesterday and only one remains alive. Will people never learn the penalty of selecting such pathways for pedestrian work?

MRS. BOLANDER'S STATEMENT of her experience in getting off an "L" road train cannot be explained away by the usual story of carelessness on the part of the passenger.

JUMPING FROM RAILWAY TRAINS will hardly be a popular method of attempting escape from imprisonment after the mishaps of two New Jersey convicts who attempted it yesterday.

PERHAPS THE ALLEGATIONS against a Philadelphia conveyancer, alluded to in another column, are false; but they suggest what may happen to men who do not read their wills before signing them.

MANSLAUGHTER in the fourth degree was the verdict rendered yesterday against a driver whose wagon struck and killed a boy. Perhaps drivers will begin to learn that personal safety of pedestrians is of more consequence than haste.

CONSIDERING all that New York has done to urge the central system of measurement upon other grain-dealing communities the present reconsideration of the plan by some members of the Produce Exchange is, to say the least, undignified.

THE WEATHER.—The barometer is above the mean in all the districts east of the Mississippi. West of that river a fall has set in, and there are indications of the movement of a disturbance toward the Lower Missouri Valley. The centre of highest is now over the upper lake region, and is advancing eastward steadily. Rain fell in the central valleys during the early portion of the day, and snow is reported in the lake regions. The weather was clear along the Atlantic coast and in the Northwest, while in the other sections of the country cloudiness increased toward night. The temperature varied but little in the Northwest and upper lake districts, fell in the Atlantic coast districts and rose decidedly in the West and Southwest. The winds have been light in all the districts except in the Southwest, where they increased to fresh and brisk. The disturbance that will advance into the central valleys from the West on Saturday will move on the southern margin of the high area, so that we shall experience northerly to easterly winds during its passage. The weather in New York and its vicinity to-day will be cold and fair, followed toward night by increasing cloudiness and possibly occasional snow showers. To-morrow it will be cold and partly cloudy, with snow.

Grant, or Sherman, or Blaine, or Hayes, or Washburne, or who?—Is There a Dark Horse?

The Blaine men "come up smiling" after their defeat in the National Committee and assert that the election of a decided Grant man as chairman on the first ballot has no political significance. It is their interest to have it thought so, but is it true? Senator Cameron, they assure us, with an air of innocent candor, was elected solely for his superior fitness, his wealth, energy, connections, influence, and his skill, courage and address as a political manager. But why did not Mr. Blaine's friends think of this before their defeat? Did Don Cameron suddenly acquire all these brilliant qualifications after four o'clock on Wednesday? At any rate, the Blaine men did not seem to discover them until after General Averill was beaten. Senator Cameron being so pre-eminently fit for the place, why did the Blaine men put an inferior candidate against him and make a vigorous fight against the new chairman? W. E. Chandler, Mr. Frye and other zealous friends of Blaine spent Tuesday evening and the forenoon of Wednesday in active lobbying against Don Cameron at the Arlington House; they spared no effort to defeat him. But when their attempt is foiled they turn round and aver, with amusing assurance, that Mr. Cameron's election has no political significance! We suppose they will next assure us that their strenuous opposition to him was also devoid of any political aim. One might think from what they say now that Mr. Cameron was really their own candidate, and that they only put forward General Averill as a foil to set off his qualifications.

The facts are that Mr. Kemble's resignation of his place on the committee was not voluntary, but was urged upon him by General Grant's friends with a view to have Senator Cameron appointed in his place in General Grant's interest. It was the pith of this design that Mr. Cameron should be made the executive head of the committee to clothe him with power to carry out the Grant programme. Mr. Gorham, a zealous Grant man, proposed Cameron's name in the committee. The majority who voted for Cameron expressed, and intended to express, their preference for General Grant for the Presidency. The selection of Averill was a selection made by the friends of Blaine, and the votes given to him were meant to be hostile to General Grant's nomination. Messrs. Chandler and Frye, who organized and led the opposition, affected no disguise on this point previous to the ballot.

Mr. Blaine's friends probably miscalculated their strength in the committee when they organized their opposition to Cameron. Unless they were sure they could defeat him it was a blunder to attempt it. They were sensible of their blunder after the result was declared, and made a lame attempt to have it believed that Cameron was elected solely on the ground of his superior personal fitness. As the fitness is indisputable they would have saved themselves from an awkward predicament by recognizing it at the outset and voting for Cameron. In that case they would not have had to stultify themselves by pretending that his election had no political significance. But they perceived their blunder as soon as the vote was taken and made the vote for Keogh, the new secretary, unanimous, although he is as pronounced a Grant man as Senator Cameron. This is precisely what they would have done with reference to Cameron himself had they foreseen that they could not defeat him. They would perhaps have been more cautious had they not remembered that it was Mr. Cameron who prevented the nomination of Blaine in 1876. The placing of Mr. Cameron at the head of the committee could in no circumstances be regarded as favorable to the aspirations of Senator Blaine, but it was bad strategy for the Blaine men to proclaim it by their strenuous but futile attempt to elect General Averill.

Secretary Sherman is a more wary politician, and he played his cards better. Like the friends of Mr. Blaine, he took a lively interest in what was going on, and was at the Arlington House on Wednesday morning in consultation with members of the committee. He was plainly enough, what Mr. Blaine does not yet see, that there is little chance for any other candidate if General Grant consents to run. Mr. Sherman therefore hedges and hedges skillfully. If Grant refuses to be a candidate the nomination will lie, according to present appearances, between Sherman and Blaine. By acquiescing in the election of Cameron Mr. Sherman has had the prudence not to antagonize General Grant, and if Grant is taken out of the field he has a chance of inheriting the Grant "boom." As matters stand the whole strength of the Grant movement is directed against Blaine. Until Grant retires everything will be done to undermine and weaken the Maine candidate. He will have the whole field against him, and the opposition will become so set in the Grant interest that in the event of Grant's withdrawal no part of it will go over to Blaine. If the Grant strength should not then concentrate upon Sherman it would be divided and distributed in such a way as to prevent a Blaine majority in the Convention.

The consent of General Grant to be a candidate is understood to depend on a practically unanimous demand of the republican party. It is evident from what took place in the Republican National Committee that the friends of Mr. Blaine will not contribute to that unanimity, but will stand out and oppose General Grant to the end. If Grant adheres to his supposed purpose he will not allow himself to be pitted against Blaine, nor against anybody in the Convention, since he will only yield to the universal wish of the party. The consequence will be that the Grant phalanx will break when he refuses to stand, and no part of it will go over to Blaine.

This will produce an interesting political situation. When the Grant strength breaks Sherman will come in for his share, but it is not to be expected that he will fall heir to the Grant enthusiasm. In the division Sherman will get some of the Grant delegates; some will perhaps think of Hayes

and some of Washburne, either of whom would make a respectable President. Mr. Hayes has been prudent, moderate and steadfast; the financial success of his administration has been brilliant; he is not given to rash experiments, and the conservative part of the country has a growing confidence in him. Mr. Washburne has also many admirers and well-wishers, and if there should arise a necessity for a dark horse the party might go further and fare worse. If the Grant strength, which is now arrayed against Blaine alone, should be divided among several candidates, Blaine would merely hold the delegates who would stand by him in opposition to Grant, and the rest would be distributed in the early ballots among several candidates. There would at length come a necessity for relieving the Convention of a deadlock and Blaine's opponents would again concentrate, as they did at Cincinnati in 1876, upon a dark horse. Who will be the dark horse? If not Hayes or Washburne, who?

Promises and Performances.

When the Metropolitan and the New York Elevated railways were merged in the Manhattan the people were assured by officials of the various companies that, among other desirable things, the change would be beneficial to the public. As at the time of the alleged fusion of interests there was considerable complaint of in the management of elevated railways, the good natured public kindly accepted the promises at their face value and waited expectantly for the implied improvements. They have been waiting ever since. The Herald ventured the opinion that monopolies seldom or never supply more than they are compelled to do, and the public has learned, as all other monopoly-cursed communities have done from the earliest day, that the Herald had good grounds for its apprehension. Before the consolidation, combination, fusion, or whatever else the companies may please to call it, there was some competition between the two roads. One offered more comfortable cars and better lights; the other had stations closer together and therefore pleased downtown people living between the two lines better than its rival did. Citizens who travelled on the east side and had their tempers squeezed out of them during the five-cent hours found hope in the energy with which the rival company was working upon a parallel east side line, which was to relieve the existing road of its occasional cattle car character. But almost the only conditions that have changed are those which have altered for the worse. Work on the new road seems suspended; some lights on platforms and stairways have gone out and others are dimmer; train hands grow more careless, and sellers and takers of tickets are more discourteous; the noise of passing trains, which the companies were said to be doing their best to lessen, is as bad as ever; the coin of the land is sometimes refused by ticket sellers; the dropping of oil and water upon pedestrians continues, although the weakest intellect in the hybrid company's employ should be able to remedy this nuisance; trains are run throughout the night on one road only, fares are as high as ever, and for as many hours a day; in short, whatever improvements are visible to the public eye appear to be for the benefit of the roads, instead of their patrons. If the stamp "monopoly" appears more distinctly on any other of this city's combinations of accommodations and nuisances the Herald has not yet discovered it. It would seem to any honest man that the simple fact of disfiguring prominent avenues and deprecating many property values should prompt the company to do all it can for the money it receives; but neither public observation nor monthly statements confirms any such sentimental supposition. Monopolies do not willingly alleviate the wrongs they inherit or create; relief must be sought in courts and legislatures, unless in their respective directorates there are men honorable enough to remember that power implies responsibility, and that the performance of honest men who are not imbeciles should be in accordance with their promises.

The Weather Service.

Professor Thompson B. Maury has contributed to the Popular Science Monthly an interesting article upon "The International Weather Service," by which it appears that he has no acquaintance whatever with what has been done by the Herald in this field of the practical application of scientific inquiries. Professor Maury bears with especial emphasis upon the importance of all labors in meteorological study that may contribute toward the construction of a complete chart of the atmosphere—such a pictorial presentation of the atmosphere as we now possess of the ocean and the land—in which its great currents, its whirlpools, its calm places and its action in given circumstances, its rising and falling tides and temperatures shall be set down, and he says of the practical importance of the kind of information this would give us that "the immediate value of every means which offers any approximation to correct storm warnings for the British and French coasts, frequented by the navies and merchant marines of every flag, is beyond calculation in dollars and cents." So it is, and we are astonished that so accomplished a meteorologist as Mr. Maury, having his attention called to this very point, has not informed himself of what has been actually done by the Herald Weather Service in realizing the success he looks upon as a grand ideal. What would be thought of a map or chart of the oceans which left out the Gulf Stream of the Atlantic and the great Japan current of the Pacific? But Mr. Maury, if he should now offer a sketch of the atmospheric ocean, would apparently leave out those aerial currents which bear to Europe the regular consignment of storms predicted by the Herald, for he seems not to have heard of them. In contrast to Mr. Maury's insufficient information on this point we may note the ample knowledge of Professor Proctor, as shown in one of the chapters of his new book, from which citations are given elsewhere, in which, in reference to the importance of the Gulf Stream as to its effect upon English weather,

he says:—"The most striking evidence of this is to be found in the success of the storm predictions telegraphed to this country from time to time by the New York Herald."

The Italian Opera Season and the Academy Ball.

The winter season of Italian opera in New York is now drawing to a close, according to the official announcement, and a review of its brief history shows that it has not been fruitful of results which can be considered as satisfactory either by the manager or his patrons. The public expectation of the season's brilliancy ran high on reading the managerial bulletins, but the realization of those hopes has not followed; the manager counted on scoring a great financial success on hearing of the advance sales at the box office, but the tide of public favor receded quickly after the opening of the season. The cause and effect have been no secret, the public press quickly reflecting the popular opinion, which ran counter to Mr. Mapleson's judgment in the value of some of his artists, and the frequency of small audiences plainly telling that Mr. Mapleson was not succeeding financially. It is late in the day to discuss the difference of opinion between the manager and his would-be patrons, and it is an idle and valueless work. The fact remains that the season has not been one of profit, and a word for the future is worth ten on the past.

Whatever may have been the extent of Mr. Mapleson's artistic force heretofore it is undoubtedly true that now, though unfortunately at the last hour, as it were, he possesses a quintet of great strength. Much of the season has been wasted in fruitless attempts to satisfy the popular taste with the company as first organized, and it is useless now, with but a fortnight left, for him to attempt to retrieve the ill fortunes of the past two months. But as the present company has received a hearty endorsement from the patrons of the Academy it would be wiser were the management to arrange for a few weeks' extension of the season, that advantage might be taken of the turn of the tide "which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune," or at least to comparative managerial success. The public are by no means anxious to discourage Mr. Mapleson, or any other operative manager of standing, in an attempt to permanently locate an Italian opera troupe in New York.

The strong desire on the part of our most influential citizens to assure the future success of the musical season in this city is reflected in the arrangements for a fund to be devoted to that purpose now nearly completed by the directors of the Academy of Music. A masked ball, the preparations for which are on an unusually grand scale, will be given at the Academy on the 5th of next month. The committee which has placed itself at the head of the undertaking is composed of our leading men—those who are foremost in our social circles, and who are known as the patrons of art and science in the metropolis. The association of these gentlemen with the affair should secure its absolute social and financial success, and their interest in the work and the proposed application of the money proceeds are intended to be both a substantial aid and a hearty encouragement of music. The ball will probably be a permanent institution, and will create a fund which, in the hands of the directors, will aid the production of the newest and best works and their interpretation by the ablest artists at the Academy of Music. This impetus given to music by the Academy must inure directly or indirectly to the benefit of every manager of legitimate opera, and it indicates the interest of all our better classes in any dignified attempt to inaugurate an Italian opera season here.

The public, the Academy stockholders, the press, are all willing to aid the undertaking to the uttermost, but the standard of excellence in this city is a high one, and the people will not patronize inferior artists, no matter how distinguished may be the introduction they have from abroad. American audiences have had exceptionally good opportunities in their concert halls and academies during the past twenty years to hear the best artists of the world, and, possessing strong natural musical instincts, they have not been slow to acquire good judgment in musical matters and an ability to decide promptly on the merits of those who come before them on the professional stage. Superior merit will always be immediately recognized, and a manager who will give the people that which they desire—new works of a good class well interpreted—will always find the people interested heart and hand in his success.

The comparative apathy of the people during the present opera season ought to serve as a lesson to all managers who imagine that the good-natured American public will willingly accept anything that they may offer.

We would desire to see Mr. Mapleson "put his best foot foremost" during the remaining fortnight and follow it at once with a supplementary season of two weeks more, producing only those operas which are popular and comparatively new. If the artists of the company will also ably second their manager's efforts (and avoid draughts and postpone "indispositions") Mr. Mapleson and the public should have good reason to be pleased by seeing a brighter close to the Italian opera season than is now promised.

Which Route Is the Best?

We give place willingly to an interesting argument concerning the interoceanic canal which is intended to displace the Nicaragua route in favor of some one of the several courses proposed within the territory of the Colombian government and presumably covered by the concession which our correspondent styles the Wyse-Lesseppe grant. It causes us regret to publish this communication anonymously, for the highly influential writer's name would enlighten his reasoning on a subject which ranges somewhat above popular comprehension in its scientific character. In favoring one route or another, the merits of which depend on scientific surveys, the public at large cannot be expected to man-

ter the details of canal construction in all their relations and pass judgment accordingly. They will necessarily depend upon authority, and as the commission of scientific officers appointed by President Grant to review the surveys was unanimous in favor of the Nicaragua route, after a careful investigation prolonged through several years, it certainly is reasonable that the American people should abide by its report unless it can be overturned by superior authority, and the vote of the Paris Congress is not sufficient for that purpose.

We think that our correspondent misapprehends the view of the Herald concerning Admiral Ammen's proposal, which has been rejected by our government, of a further and final consultation of engineers, representing the United States and other countries, concerning a canal route. That proposal, of course, is susceptible of a variety of interpretations at the pleasure of critics. Our correspondent construes it into a doubt on the Admiral's part whether the Nicaragua route is positively the best. The interpretation we expressed, in words which he omits to quote, is that the Admiral made it "to satisfy the world at large and to hold out an olive branch to the Vicomte de Lesseppe rather than to clear up any scientific doubts in his own mind." We have good reasons for adhering to this opinion in preference to our correspondent's, and need only refer to the interview with Admiral Ammen in Philadelphia, which was printed in yesterday's Herald, in corroboration of them. Nor do we think from what we know of Mr. Menocal that our correspondent is correct in attributing to him also a doubt concerning the superiority of the Nicaragua route because he said a few weeks ago that "he proposes soon to return to Nicaragua, where he intends to make still further investigations concerning the proposed canal."

The Herald has only one desire about an interoceanic canal, and that is for the selection of the best route. The United States surveys and the official report of the United States Commissioners, founded upon them, in favor of Nicaragua, constitute at present the most authoritative exposition of the subject, and the project of a further consultation of official engineers to revise that conclusion has, in Admiral Ammen's words, been "maturely considered by our government and regarded as unnecessary."

The Afghans in Cabul.

The Afghan troops have not let the grass grow in the streets of Cabul after the British evacuation. They are now in the Bala Hissar and occupy the city, while the British are in the entrenched positions at Sharpur, a few miles distant. That General Roberts did a very wise thing in moving out of the Afghan capital is unquestionable, for with its broken walls and ruined citadel it was practically untenable with such a small force as is under his command. In the cantonments, well provisioned, he will be able to defy almost any number of undisciplined Afghans, who will not find on the plain the cover which they seek to such advantage on the hillsides. The news published in our cable columns yesterday morning must prove welcome to England. If it is true that Herat and Cabul troops have got to fighting among themselves, and that Ayoub Khan has been imprisoned, it is almost certain that the force which left Herat some weeks ago for Cabul will return to that city. This will relieve General Roberts of a great danger. According to our cable despatches published this morning, it is asserted that the buried treasure of Yakob Khan unearthed by the English after entering Cabul consists almost entirely of Russian gold. This discovery should not be such a very startling one to the English, though it is strange that the matter has not caused more stir in England before now. Any way, with this certainty the Russian bugbear will assume greater proportions than ever in England, and will certainly cast an ominous shadow across John Bull's hearth at the coming Christmas.

Almost A Panic.

Seldom have all conditions favorable to a panic presented themselves at the same time as they did at the Park Theatre last night, and not often are they so successfully overruled as they were at that place of amusement. A fire was discovered in the main entrance, the omnipresent idiot who shouts "Fire!" on such occasions gave the alarm to the hundreds of people in the building, there was the usual trepidation and heart sinking that experiences of alarmed theatre audiences are quick to cause, and, besides all else, the inevitable problem of how to get several hundred people promptly through several places of exit troubled even those who were not excited. Thanks, however, to a self-possessed actor and a cool-headed policeman, everybody escaped in safety. Mr. Emmet dropped for the time the dialect of "Fritz in Ireland" and advised the audience to depart as rapidly and quietly as possible, while Police Officer Genore, by both word and action, resolutely suppressed all attempts at crowding—which has been the cause of most of the disasters in burning theatres—and the house was cleared by the various ways of exit without harm to any one. The public has had some sad illustrations of what the spirit of panic may do for a theatre audience; but the experience at the Park last night shows that if the people will simply bide their time and follow those who are getting through the doorways as fast as possible a house may be safely cleared in time too short to allow a fire to make dangerous headway.

Asylum Abuses.

The meeting called to consider the rights and wrongs of lunatics was, in point of numbers and character, a grand success. The addresses by prominent physicians and humanitarians were forcible, as they could not help being when so much needed saying in the interests of humanity and justice, but the principal work of the meeting will be found in the resolutions, which are given in full in another column. These condemn the exclusiveness of most asylums for the insane, and no one who has read the Herald during the past few years can

deny that they do so on sufficient grounds; they call for a lunacy commission, somewhat like that of Great Britain, which is charged with the general oversight of public and private institutions; a national association to interest itself in the protection of the insane is also demanded, and the committee which is charged with the duty of framing a plan for a State commission and urging the same at Albany is also expected to take steps toward the formation of the national society. As the committee appointed consists of strong men it is to be hoped that the projected reform will be pressed at once, so that the class which among unfortunate most deserves pity may speedily be relieved from the horrors that seem inseparable from secret management, and saved also from the inevitable abuses that exist wherever the demon of political influence finds open doors. Little or nothing that is described in history has so disgraced the people of which it is told as many existing methods of treating and mistreating the insane disgrace our highly civilized nation.

The Murelian Fete at the Hippodrome.

Paris has had her Murelian fete. The result is a hundred and fifty thousand francs, say thirty thousand dollars, in money for the suffering Murelians, and what is more than this, as our cable despatch tells us, an incalculable development of good feeling between Frenchmen and Spaniards. It is also very true, as our correspondent remarks, that the fete proves Frenchmen to excel in nothing so much as in works of *bienfaisance*, especially, it may be added, when the good work is accompanied, as in Paris last evening, by some delightful festival or other. Such a method of almsgiving makes the giver and the recipients equally happy. We can imagine that the crowds in the Hippodrome were in a most angelic mood last evening, when even the Tannhäuser march could be included in the musical programme. Truly Paris and the Parisians command the attention and respect of the world whenever they choose.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Yale has in all 1,003 students this year. Senator Henry M. Teller, of Colorado, is at the Stratford House. The Duke of Edinburgh likes wild boar and Russian sturgeon for dinner. Mr. George Augustus Sala arrived at the Brevoort House yesterday from Philadelphia. A thieves' club, composed exclusively of discharged waiters, has been organized in Paris. A Hindoo baker, wishing to inform Englishmen of his trade, put on his sign, "European baker." Adeline Patt ordered a dozen drawing room panels in Paris representing her fair self in a dozen of her principal parts. Congressman Atkins, chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, is still confined to his room with an attack of erysipelas. Secretaries Everts and Sherman will attend the dinner to be given General Grant by Mr. Drexel in Philadelphia this evening. Senators Henry B. Anthony and Ambrose E. Burnside, of Rhode Island, were at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, last evening, on their way home from Washington. The Paris Bourse mourns the death of its bell-ringer, who used to strike one solemn knell every day just before the commencement of financial operations. "Cavendish" has spent most of his life at the whist table and has only won £2,000. He thinks that good play gives an advantage of one point a rubber over bad. M. Paul Lagarde is the happy man of Mlle. Jeanne Samary's choice. When a confirmed punster heard that the pretty secretary was to be married, he exclaimed, "Samary se marie! (A marrie)." The London Examiner thinks that Valentine Baker Pacha, having achieved great success in Turkey, is, notwithstanding his discharge from the British army, an English representative abroad. On the closed and snuff of a French shop was seen the following advertisement: *Ferné pour cause de suicide. Remettez Lunet. La veuve vendra au Halles.* Sir Henry Thompson advises that travellers may avoid typhoid fever abroad by abstaining from drinking water until it has been boiled. He does not highly regard "siphon" waters, which may be made from ordinary tainted waters. He likes cold weak tea which has been boiled. It is very probable that General Phil Sheridan will accompany General Grant on his contemplated visit to Mexico and Cuba. General Sheridan's health is not very good at present, and it is thought by his friends that the trip would prove beneficial. The matter has been specially urged by Generals Grant and Sherman. Scores of thousands of camels are killed by over-exertion and starvation in every campaign in India, and military critics claim that the future of Europe in Central Asia depends upon the ability of engineers to lay down slow, cheap steam railways which can carry their own creek bridges with them and transport food and ammunition in time of war. This is a Christmas dinner for a few people:—Celery soup. Boiled cod, with oyster sauce. Roast turkey, with cranberry, mashed potatoes, boiled onions, spinach, mashed turneps, cauliflower and having a soup-stuck sauce flavored with a bit of mace. Boiled macaroni, with bits of hot corn bread. Baked macaroni, with grated cheese. Plum pudding. Mince pie. Hot buttered custard. Nightmare. London Spectator:—"One of the well marked points about letter writing is, that it is rarely those who are their best in society who are also the best letter writers. We could name persons who never take up a pen to write to a friend without making themselves twice as much of persons as they are in conversation; and others, again, who never take up a pen without effacing themselves almost utterly, without reducing themselves to the ciphers which in society they certainly are not."

THE MISSOURI METEOR.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE HERALD.]

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 18, 1879. The report from Nemaha county, Kan., of the death of David Meisenalter, a stockman, by being struck by a falling meteor, first came through the Tribune, published at St. Louis, the county seat, and has since been confirmed by a gentleman from that place with whom your correspondent had an interview. The latter says that there was no doubt about the meteor which struck the man, and that his death is acknowledged to have been caused as stated. It took place on the morning of December 13, at about eight o'clock, and the sky at that time was perfectly clear. It was very cold, and Meisenalter had gone from his house to a pasture about five hundred yards distant to drive up some cattle. He was walking toward the barn on his return, and while standing about twenty feet from the trunk of a maple tree was killed. The meteor, which caused him to drop, came from an easterly direction, and first struck the tree trunk, which caused it to glance slightly, and in its flight it cut the upper branches of the maple and entered Meisenalter's body from below the right shoulder, coming out at the left hip and then partially burying itself in the frozen ground. Its course was undoubtedly changed by contact with the tree, as could be seen by the manner in which the latter was splintered.

THE ABOLITE DESCRIBED.

The deadly missile is said to be about as large as an ordinary man's head and egg-shaped and rough, as if taken from a hot furnace and cooled in the night through space. It resembled in appearance iron taken from a blast furnace and cooled by rolling in sand, and is composed of iron pyrites. It was perfectly cool when it struck the tree, and after its fall, and lay not more than two feet below the surface of the ground.